

Lower Peninsula area of Virginia. Phoebus High School's championship this year marked the 13th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football.

Although very accomplished in football, Phoebus High's legacy of excellence is not limited to the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Robert Johnson, the Phoebus faculty seeks to inspire all students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities.

Phoebus has two innovative programs aimed at expanding the learning experience outside of the traditional classroom. One of them involves courses that prepare students for careers in technology. As host of the Hampton School Division's Information Design and Engineering Academy (IDEA), Phoebus offers magnet career classes in pre-engineering, design and information technology, and media technology and design. These courses provide the students a foundation to prepare for college classes and jobs in the technology sector. Phoebus is also home to the Blue Phantom Inn, a student-run restaurant that gives students an opportunity to develop their culinary arts skills. The restaurant program was nationally recognized in Southern Living magazine.

So we would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Stan Sexton, his coaching staff, the players on the Phoebus High School Phantoms and to all of Phoebus High School students, families, friends and fans, for their continued dedication to excellence in winning the Group AAA Division 5 Virginia High School League state football champions of 2011.

ENDING AMERICA'S WAR IN IRAQ

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, President Obama deserves tremendous credit for ending America's war in Iraq, honoring his commitment to bring all U.S. troops home by the end of 2011. As commander-in-chief he has always set the appropriate course of action in Iraq while always honoring the service and sacrifice of our troops and our military families.

The Iraq War has been a tragedy for far too many American and Iraqi families. The human costs of this war—in deaths, suffering, and permanent loss—cannot be calculated. U.S. troops served and fought with a profound sense of duty to our country. For this, all Americans should be grateful. The family members and loved ones of our brave troops also endured tremendous sacrifices that can never be repaid. Those selfless Americans who sacrificed their lives and bodies in service to our country, must always be remembered and Congress must always fulfill the promises it has made to our veterans and their families.

At home we cannot ignore the war's other costs. The Iraq War directly added \$800 billion to the nation's debt—a bill that will be paid by our children and grandchildren. Meeting the long-term health care needs of Iraq war veterans will require hundreds of billions more for

decades to come and that's an obligation Congress must never balk at paying.

Over the past nine years, my opposition to this war has been well known. Iraq was a war of political choice, not strategic necessity. While Iraq is no longer ruled by a dictator, the human price the Iraqi people paid in death, destruction, violence, and misery casts a very dark shadow over their country's future.

In the final analysis, America's war in Iraq was a strategic and human tragedy that must never be repeated. Now, as armchair generals in their disgraced neo-conservative pinstripes plot a new misadventure, this time with Iran, the American people must not be deceived, not be driven by fear, and not yield to another expensive and painful war of choice.

Mr. Speaker, I request the attached New York Times editorial regarding the end of America's war in Iraq entitled "A Formal End" be included.

[From the New York Times, Dec. 15, 2011]

A FORMAL END

It is a relief that the American role in the misguided Iraq war is finally over. It came to an official close on Thursday with an appropriately subdued ceremony in Baghdad. We mourn the nearly 4,500 American troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis who lost their lives.

After so much pain and sacrifice, Iraqis now have the responsibility for making their own better future. The fighting is not over, and success is still a long shot. The United States has a major role to play: encouraging, supporting and goading Iraq's leaders to make the long-delayed political compromises that are their only hope for building a stable democracy.

The fact that Saddam Hussein is gone is a genuine cause for celebration. But the list of errors and horrors in this war is inexcusably long, starting with a rush to invasion based on manipulated intelligence.

The Bush administration had no plan for governing the country once Saddam was deposed. The Iraqi economy still bears the scars from the first frenzied days of looting. The decision to disband the Sunni-dominated Iraqi Army helped unleash five years of sectarian strife that has not fully abated. Iraq's political system remains deeply riven by ethnic and religious differences.

America's reputation has yet to fully recover from the horrors of Abu Ghraib. The country is still paying a huge price for President George W. Bush's decision to short-change the war in Afghanistan. American policy makers, for generations to come, must study these mistakes carefully and ensure that they are not repeated.

As for Iraq today, the authoritarian tendencies of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki are deeply troubling. A member of the Shiite majority that was badly persecuted under Saddam, he has been far more interested in payback than inclusion.

Washington has pushed him over the years—but, often, not hard enough.

The Baghdad government promised jobs to 100,000 members of the Sunni Awakening movement—insurgents whose decision to switch sides helped end the civil war—but only half that have been hired. Parliament still needs to enact a law, called for in the Constitution, that would provide a legal basis for determining who should be prosecuted for supporting Saddam's Baath Party or other extremist ideologies. Iraq's leaders have many more issues to resolve. Incredibly, they have still not decided how to divide the country's oil wealth. There is no agreement on who will control the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, which is claimed by both

Baghdad and the semiautonomous Kurdish regional government.

Iraq's oil production still has not rebounded, and basic services like electricity are still woefully inadequate. Iraq needs an impartial justice system. Washington has pressed Baghdad for years to end corruption and build a representative government. It will need to keep pressing.

After investing billions of dollars, the United States has had more success rebuilding Iraq's security forces. But Iraqi and American commanders say these forces are not ready to fully protect the country against insurgents or potentially hostile neighbors. There are critical weaknesses in intelligence, air defenses, artillery and logistics.

The Obama administration was unable to reach a new defense agreement with Baghdad that would have allowed several thousand American troops to stay behind as backup. We hope that the Iraqi Army will do better than expected. The administration must be prepared to offer limited help if the army does get into serious trouble.

President Obama, who first ran for office campaigning against the war, has never wavered on his promise to bring the troops home. The last few thousand will be out of Iraq by year's end. We celebrate their return. But this country must never forget the intolerable costs of a war started on arrogance and lies.

RECOGNIZING CROSSROADS INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, BOSMA INDUSTRIES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two organizations in Indianapolis, Crossroads Industrial Services and Bosma Enterprises. Both of these organizations are a part of the AbilityOne Program, which has helped more than 47,000 Americans who are blind or who have significant disabilities gain skills and training that ultimately led to gainful employment.

Together, these organizations employ 189 people in Indianapolis, jobs made possible by the AbilityOne Program. This critical program harnesses the purchasing power of the federal government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities. It affords Americans with disabilities the opportunity to acquire job skills and training, receive good wages and benefits, and gain greater independence and quality of life.

This segment of the population has suffered from significant unemployment. Federal opportunities through the AbilityOne Program have played an important role in bringing people with disabilities into the workforce. For example, one of Bosma Enterprises' employees Kevin Mossberger exemplifies how training and the AbilityOne Program can make a real difference in the life of someone. Kevin, who is in his early twenties obtained a degree in Business Management, but because of a genetic eye disease called Retinitis Pigmentosa was unable to find work in his small, southern Indiana hometown.

His parents suggested he go to Bosma Enterprises' Rehabilitation Center to receive additional training to live independently and to

help find employment. He did so and is now employed at Bosma Enterprises. Kevin says that the instruction he received taught him "to live on his own and to have a whole new outlook."

Kevin is not alone, earlier this year I was able to visit Crossroads Industrial Services and see firsthand the impact of the AbilityOne Program on not only its employees, but also the impact it has on our men and women in uniform. Crossroads employees are responsible for producing items that our service members rely on, like ballistic helmet pad sets, combat identification panels, and rocket launcher spare parts. It is with these important contributions that Crossroads, like Bosma, exemplifies the quality of work and determination to enhance the lives of disabled Americans that make the AbilityOne Program so invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I extend my support to the AbilityOne Program. I also want to commend the dedication and commitment to Jim Vento of Easter Seals Crossroads, Lou Moneymaker of Bosma Industries, and their staffs, for helping individuals who are blind or have a significant disability find employment. The impact of their work and that of each AbilityOne employee has an undeniably positive impact on our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND
MARVIN McMICKLE, PH.D.

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Marvin McMickle and congratulate him on his retirement after twenty-four years of service as the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Rev. McMickle will become the president at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Rev. McMickle was born in 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. He was ordained as a reverend in New York City in 1973. Rev. McMickle served as the pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Montclair, New Jersey and as the associate pastor for the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York City prior to becoming the pastor of Antioch Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio in 1987.

In addition to being a staple in Cleveland's spiritual community, Rev. McMickle is also a major influence in academia and politics. He earned his undergraduate degree from Aurora College, a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate in philosophy from Case Western Reserve University. Over the years, Rev. McMickle has taught at several colleges and universities including Ashland Theological Seminary, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Fordham, Princeton and spent a semester as a visiting professor at Yale University.

Rev. McMickle has served as president of Shaker Heights School Board and Montclair Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He has also served on the boards of Greater Cleveland Roundtable, United Pastors in Mis-

sion, Urban League of Greater Cleveland, Gateway Economic Development Committee and United Way Services of Greater Cleveland.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in thanking Rev. Marvin McMickle for more than two decades of leadership and service to the congregation of Antioch Baptist Church and residents of Cleveland. I wish him luck in his new position.

INTRODUCING WHITE HOUSE CON-
FERENCE ON HAITI ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the White House Conference on Haiti Act of 2011. This important piece of legislation would call on the President of the United States to convene a White House Conference on Haiti within the next calendar year.

As we are all well aware, in January of last year, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake rocked the already struggling nation of Haiti. Approximately three million people were affected and 230,000 are estimated to have died. Those who survived continue to face unimaginable conditions with a crumbling infrastructure and recurring Cholera outbreaks.

If there is a silver lining to this unimaginable tragedy, it is that out of this, the Haitian people have been given the incredible opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and rebuild their nation stronger than ever before. Millions of dollars in aid have flooded into the country and thousands of aid organizations are committed to building a sustainable recovery.

Immediately following the earthquake, we all witnessed countless foreign governments and aid organizations pledging to stand with Haiti, and I have been inspired by the countless individuals throughout the globe who have donated their talents and services to the recovery and the many more who are eager to help, but simply don't know how.

We cannot let this opportunity go to waste. However, with the possibility to do good comes the very real possibility of waste, duplication, and inefficiencies in the rebuilding and recovery process.

Under this bill, the major stakeholders in the rebuilding, along with other interested parties, will come together to share their knowledge and best practices and identify gaps in the recovery process. It is my hope that out of this Conference, opportunities for collaboration and coordination in projects big and small will emerge.

The Conference will also highlight innovative ideas for rebuilding and redevelopment in Haiti. From inexpensive hurricane and earthquake proof housing and green building techniques to sustainable economic practices and urban development. There are countless companies and individuals who have developed groundbreaking concepts in response to this tragedy, but they have yet to be connected with those who can put these ideas into practices or with others pursuing similar goals who may be able to improve upon their initiatives. Innovation does not happen in a bubble; great things can happen when great minds come together.

Further, Haitians living abroad are eager to help their brothers and sisters in Haiti, but many simply do not know where to begin. The White House Conference on Haiti will tap the immense resource that is the Haitian Diaspora by bringing their abilities together with those who are in a position to use them.

Most importantly however, the White House Conference on Haiti will help ensure that the challenges facing the Haitian people remain in the public eye and in the minds of all Americans.

While the United States has been instrumental in the recovery and rebuilding from countless natural and man-made disasters throughout the world, few international tragedies have had as deep an impact on the United States, and particularly the State of Florida, as this one.

Helping our Haitian neighbors is not only the right thing to do; it is also in our own nation's best interests. Just a stone's throw from our shores, instability in Haiti impacts our own economy and immigration levels.

Our nation's rapid, comprehensive response, from our government down to everyday Americans, has been commendable, but the President and this administration are in a position to do more. This legislation would not be a costly endeavor, but could stand to save millions of dollars that could be used to improve the lives of the Haitian people for generations to come.

At a time of continued instability and crisis, the United States must do all within its power to help ensure a long-term sustainable recovery for Haiti.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and urge the House Leadership to bring it swiftly to the House floor for consideration.

IN HONOR OF RADIO STATION
KZRG'S RESPONSE TO THE JOP-
LIN TORNADO

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of one of the 7th District of Missouri's radio stations, KZRG.

KZRG is an AM radio station broadcasting from Joplin, Missouri that does news broadcasting for Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, or as they call it, "the four state" area.

On May 22, 2011, an EF-5 tornado struck Joplin, Missouri, devastating a once quiet Missouri town. On that Sunday evening, Joplin was forever changed. Much was destroyed. Family, friends, neighbors, homes and businesses disappeared in the blink of a tornado's eye. After the winds stilled, over 160 people, 8,000 homes and 500 businesses were lost.

The early days were tough. Shock and disbelief, chaos and devastation, but out of that wreckage came hope and inspiration. We found out there are a lot of heroes in Joplin. During those dark hours they stood up and came to the aid of their community when their neighbors needed them most. There is no better example of that than the associates at KZRG.

Despite the fact that seven KZRG associates lost homes during the tornado, despite